



(Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Woman Dominates Career Field

Warrant Officer Staceyann McNish, an allied trade's warrant officer hailing from Delray, Fla., and serving with Company B, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division based out of Fort Hood, Texas, starts repairing a broken water pipe at a Karkh Water Treatment Plant in northern Baghdad May 8. For article see page 3.

Technology Bringing Deployed Parents to Graduations

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Killeen Daily Herald

KILLEEN, Texas - Military families are no strangers to missed milestones.

The Killeen Independent School District, 1st Cavalry Division and Fort Hood-based Azbel Electronics are teaming to make sure that deployed Soldiers will get to share in one special day of their children's lives. Starting May 24, high school graduations are set to broadcast live from the Bell County Expo Center to seven locations in Iraq via video teleconference.

Those locations are Camps Taji and Liberty; Forward Operating Bases Prosperity, Victory, Warhorse; Logistics Supply Area Anaconda and Talil Air Base. Those Soldiers who can't get to one

of the locations can also watch the graduations live on the Internet at www.edcommunity.apple.com/gradcast2007.

The deployed soldiers and students will also have the opportunity to talk via video teleconference either before or immediately following the graduation ceremony, according to information from the 1st Cavalry.

It will mean a lot to Courteney Green for her father, Col. Tobin Green, to see her walk across the stage and accept her diploma Sunday. Green serves as the 1st Cavalry's operations officer and has missed a lot - including the birth of his son Connor, who is now 16 and a sophomore at Killeen High School.

Courteney didn't expect that her father would get to see her graduate and said the opportunity was heartfelt and appreciated by

her and her family.

During Green's last deployment in 2003, the family was lucky if it heard from him once a month. During a video teleconference at the expo center on Monday, Green said that during that deployment there was one satellite phone. Now some Soldiers at his camp get to use the video teleconference equipment once a month. He has participated in three with his family since deploying.

Courteney applied to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and said the process was hard without her father, a graduate and former teacher. When she received her acceptance letter, she wanted to show him immediately. He eventually

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Rabbit Fest

Maj. Timothy Murdock, the 1st Cavalry Division's Special Troops Battalion rear detachment commander, and Sgt. Maj. Joe Robbins, the battalion's senior noncommissioned officer, hand out candy to parade goers May 19 at the 2007 Rabbit Fest arts and crafts festival held in Copperas Cove, Texas. Murdock was the grand marshal for this year's Rabbit Fest Parade.



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Strain, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

The dates and times (central) of the high schools graduations as well as the number of graduates with parents watching includes:

Belton High School: 8 p.m., Thursday at 8 p.m., 2 graduates
 Copperas Cove High School: Friday at 7:30 p.m., 7 graduates
 Harker Heights High School: Saturday at 3 p.m., 6 graduates
 Shoemaker High School: Saturday at 8 p.m., 17 graduates
 Killeen High School: Sunday at 2 p.m., 11 graduates
 Ellison High School: Sunday at 6 p.m., 7 graduates

Arabic Phrase of the Day

il-leila

**Defined:
tonight**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 107
Low: 79



Tomorrow

High: 108
Low: 79



Friday

High: 110
Low: 79

Deployed Soldiers to Attend HS Graduation

Graduation

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got to see it during a video teleconference.

Her father has missed a lot, Courteney said, but it has been worth it. His military experience and time at West Point has inspired her to pursue a degree in international relations, the subject the colonel taught.

The live broadcasts show families and Soldiers that people have gone to great lengths for them, said Shirley Boyd, a district technology consultant.

"This is truly their day," she said.

The first interactive graduation was in 2004. During the graduations, two large screens will be placed on either side of the stage and they will display the Soldiers as their graduates take the stage. Last year, the brother of a graduate who was in Iraq showed up on the screens and completely surprised the graduate, Boyd said.

Green said that getting to see his daughter graduate would be a good early Father's Day present.

Any deployment creates strain on the Soldiers, he said, and this opportunity takes away much of that strain. It gives Soldiers something to look forward to and gives them great memories, he added.

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Soldier Thrives as Lone Woman in Male-dominated Career Field

By Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma
1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Women have been faced with obstacles throughout history and have fought back. They have swum against the current and gone against the grain through all the stereotypes and double standards to emerge as stronger, inspirational individuals.

One Jamaican-born Soldier, Warrant Officer Staceyann McNish, an allied trades warrant officer with Company B, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, has unknowingly defied the norm by being the sole woman in the Army in her male-dominated military specialty.

Because of her career field's small size, she found out that she was the lone

Army woman specializing in mechanics and welding from her comrade in the close-knit career field, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jack Peters.

Peters, her supervisor at the time, was one of the people who encouraged McNish to take on the challenge of becoming a warrant officer in their specialty.

"I have been doing the same job the entire time I have been in the Army, so I never looked at it as a big deal, but I know it's a major accomplishment," said McNish. "(When I first signed up for this,) I never thought that I would be the only female warrant officer."

McNish recently has gone out on missions to repair leaking water pipes in the surrounding area and quickly Soldiers saw the professionalism and her ability to do her job.

"She doesn't sit back and point fin-

gers, (saying) 'Hey, you do this; you do that.' She's actually hands-on," said Staff Sgt. Erik Babb, a section sergeant with the battalion's Company A. "Seeing someone perform the way she does really picks up the spirits of the troops."

"I think that Chief McNish would do a great job no matter what she chose to do in life. She is very dedicated and goal-oriented," said Lt. Col. Tyler Osenbaugh, her battalion commander. "The fact that she chose an occupation that few female Soldiers serve and became a warrant officer is how she chose to prove that she can do anything."

"I am very aggressive about my job," McNish admitted.

McNish said although the males in her field are very supportive, she does sometimes feel that there are times she has to work a little harder than the males, not for them, but herself.

Although she is deemed one of the best in her career field, she cannot fix everything. With a strong competitiveness, McNish said she it is hard to accept defeat when circumstances don't allow her to be



(Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

(Left to right) An interpreter, Warrant Officer Staceyann McNish, Staff Sgt. Dajanira Burton, and Sgt. James Heintzel, all observe and assist as McNish repairs a water pipe May 8. The Soldiers conducted repairs at the Karkh Water Treatment Plant in northern Baghdad.

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(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Star Shines on Baghdad

Country star Toby Keith signs a guitar for Staff Sgt. Jose Trevino of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, during his visit to Forward Operating Base Prosperity, Iraq, May 22.

Reminder

Force Protection Exercise

All military and civilian personnel on Victory Base Complex will be required to be in Uniform Posture U2 from 1100 to 1600 Friday, May 25. Each person must don a helmet, outer tactical vest and ballistic eye protection. Entry control points will not be closed to authorized traffic, however, internal traffic control points will only allow passage to vehicles with passes and/or traffic that is mission essential.

Mother Takes on Welding

Hot Steel

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successful in completing missions - she doesn't like to fail.

But, on the opposite end, the tough specialty does offer many fulfilling moments.

"The most rewarding for me is being able to save lives like adding (rocket-propelled grenade) caging (to a vehicle) or adding sniper netting on (a humvee), or repairing a bridge," she said.

Though operations can be very time-consum-

ing, the level of difficulty has never been an issue because she has always been determined to find a way, McNish said.

Osenbaugh said

that her professionalism and wealth of knowledge that she unveils with her everyday actions sends the message that, with the requisite skills and motivation, people are only limited by their imagination.

McNish, a single mother of two, a 12-year-old daughter, Tatyana and a 7-year-old son, Alex, said she makes an effort to let her kids know every day that there is nothing they cannot accomplish if they put their minds to it. A perfect example of that, she said, is to look at how much women have accomplished in the military.

Although being a single parent can be difficult at times, she said she is able to manage the responsibilities with the support of her parents, in-laws and friends.

McNish added that her two

children have been her beacon of strength pulling her through every challenge life has thrown her way.

"I am able to juggle the (career and being a mother) because I have two wonderful kids and a good support system for them," McNish said. "They are really good kids. They always amaze me."

Being at the top of her Army career field has presented some challenges for the family of three, but through it all, they have persevered. In

spite of all the mov-

"It is great to know that I have opened the door for other women."

**Warrent Officer
Staceyann McNish**

straight A's.

Through it all, McNish has been a full-time mother and somehow found time to climb the mountain as the only Army woman in her military specialty.

"I get the look all the time when I say, 'I am a welder,' which is hilarious because it is a known fact that women, when given the opportunity to do any task, can be as good as a male," McNish said. "It is great to know that I have opened the door for other women, to know that it is OK to take on the challenge of being in a male-dominated job."

According to her battalion commander, she is an inspiration to every woman in uniform, present and future, because she's made it known that there are a whole host of possibilities for them in the Army.